

Message Text

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O 231439Z JUL 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CURACAO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 144017

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC FROM KINGSTON 21 JUL 73:

QUOTE UNCLAS KINGSTON 2419

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT JM
SUBJ: EDITORIAL REACTION TO GOJ REQUEST FOR AMBASSADORS RECALL

1. THE ISLANDS TWO LEADING DAILIES HAVE PREDICTABLY BACKED THE PRIME MINISTER'S REQUEST FOR THE RECALL OF OWE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING THE AMBASSADORS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CHURCH SUB-COMMITTEE. THE NEW PNP BACKED TABLOID "THE JAMAICA DAILY NEWS" ASSERTED THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN IN JAMAICA TOO LONG, LACKED ADEQUATE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND HAD COUNTENANCED A CONTINUING AFFRONT TO NATIONAL DIGNITY IN THE MANNER IN WHICH HE PERMITTED THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY TO TREAT JAMAICAN VISA APPLI- UNCLASSIFIED

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CANTS. INFLUENTIAL DAILY GLEANER, JULY 21 DELIVERED A MORE RESTRAINED EDITORIAL SUPPORTING THE PRIME MINISTERS ACTION AND SEARCHING FOR THE UNDERLYING ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE CONFRONTATION. THE GLEANER CONCLUDED WITH A CALL FOR A FULLER EXPLANATION

FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF ALLEGED US INVOLVEMENT IN
A JAMAICAN NATIONAL ELECTION. TEXT FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE THE DE ROULET AFFAIR

THE CONTROVERSY THAT HAS ARisen OVER WHAT PASSED BETWEEN THE US
AMBASSADOR, MR. DEROULET, AND THE PRIM MINISTER, MR. MANLEY,
DURING THE PERIOD PRECEDING LAST YEAR'S GENERAL ELECTION, SEEMS
TO TOUCH NOT SO MUCH ON WHAT WAS SAID, BUT ON THE INTERPRETATION
TO BE PLACED ON WHAT THEY TOLD EACH OTHER. ONE THING WE DO KNOW
FOR SURE, FROM WHAT MR. DEROULET HAS SAID IN TESTIMONY BEFORE
THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON MULTINATIONAL
CORPORATIONS AND FROM MR. MANLEY'S STATEMENT IN RESPONSE, IS
THAT BOTH MEN DID COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER ABOUT US INTEREST
IN THE ELECTIONS ON THE ONE HAND, AND POLICY TOWARDS THE BAUXITE
INDUSTRY ON THE OTHER.

IN PARTICULAR WE KNOW AS A FACT, FROM THE STATEMENTS OF BOTH MEN
FIRSTLY, THAT IN ANSWER TO MR. MANLEY'S ENQUIRIES,
MR. DE ROULET GAVE AN ASSURANCE OF US NEUTRALITY OR NON-INTER-
FERENCE IN THE ELECTIONS, AND SECONDLy THAT MR. MANLEY INFORMED
HIM THAT IT WAS NOT THE PNP'S POLICY TO NATIONALIZE BAUXITE AND
THAT HE WOULD NOT BE MAKING THE QUESTION AN ELECTION ISSUE.
THE CRUX OF THE MATTER IS THAT MR. DEROULET IN HIS STATEMENT
BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HAS INTERPRE-
TED THE ASSURANCES THAT HE AND MR. MANLEY GAVE EACH OTHER AS BEING
SOMETHING IN THE NATURE OF A QUID PRO QUO, AND THEREFORE AMOUNTING
TO A DEAL, WHILE MR. MANLEY HAS VIGOROUSLY DENIED THAT THERE WAS
ANYTHING OF THE SORT. WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS INDEED ANYTHING THAT
COULD BE CALLED A DEAL IN HARD AND FAST TERMS IS A RATHER SUBTLE
MATTER EXTREMELY DIFFICULT OF PROOF, UNLESS ONE HAS ACCESS TO
THE VERBATIM RECORD OF WHAT PASSED BETWEEN THE TWO MEN.
FOR THE BARE FACTS AS OUTLINED ABOVE COULD BE CONSISTENT WITH
AT LEAST FOUR DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES. FIRSTLY, IT COULD HAVE
BEEN THE CASE THAT EACH SIDE WAS GIVING ONLY A UNILATERAL ASSURANCE,
INDEPENDENTLY OF ANY COMMITMENT GIVEN BY THE OTHER; SECONDLy,
THAT ONE SIDE INTENDED HIS COMMITMENT TO
BE CONTINGENT ON THAT OF THE OTHER, WHILE THE LATTER HAD NO SUCH
INTENTION; THIRDLy, THAT THOUGH EXPRESSLY AND FORMALLY GIVEN
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AS UNILATERAL ASSURANCES, BOTH MEN INFORMALLY UNDERSTOOD THEIR
COMMITMENTS TO CONSTITUTE AN UNSPOKEN BARGAIN; AND FOURTHLY,
THAT THEY CLEARLY, CONSCIOUSLY AND DELIBERATELY ENTERED INTO A
FIRM DEAL.

THIS

MATTER IS ONE OF GRAVE CONCERN TO THE COUNTRY
WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS A FIRM DEAL BETWEEN MR. DEROULET AND MR.
MANLEY. IF THERE WAS SUCH A DEAL, IT MEANS THAT AN IMPORT-
ANT AREA OF PUBLIC POLICY WAS BEING REMOVED FROM THE COMPETENCE
OF OUR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROCESSES, AND BEING DETERMINED BY
COERCIVE FOREIGN INFLUENCE RATHER THAN BY OUR OWN NEEDS, VALUES
AND PERSPECTIVES. EVEN IF THERE NEVER WAS ANY SUCH DEAL, IT
IS NEVERTHELESS ALARMING THAT MR. DEROULET, JUDGING FROM THE

GENERAL ATTITUDE REVEALED IN HIS TESTIMONY, SHOULD REGARD HIMSELF AS HAVING A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE TO INTERFERE IN THE ELECTIONS, WHICH HE COULD THEN USE AS A WEAPON TO THREATEN OR BARGAIN WITH LOCAL POLITICIANS.

INDEED, IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT MR. MANLEY HIMSELF SEEMED TO BE CONCEDING THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A PRIVILEGE WHEN HE SOUGHT TO KNOW OF MR. DEROULET WHETHER THE PNP COULD RELY ON THE US GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN NEUTRAL IN THE 1972 ELECTIONS. SUCH ACTION ON THE PART OF MR. MANLEY HAS THE EFFECT OF HELPING TO CONVERT THE POWER AND CAPACITY OF THE US TO INTERFERE IN DOMESTIC POLITICS INTO A RIGHT TO DO SO.

MR. SHEARER WAS SAID BY MR. DEROULET IN HIS EVIDENCE, TO HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY DISCUSSING NATIONALISATION IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE ELECTION. ON OUR RECORDS, MR. SHEARER HAS NEVER GIVEN ANY INTIMATION AT ALL OF INTENTION TO TAKE OVER THE BAUXITE OR ANY OTHER FOREIGN-OWNED INDUSTRY, OR SAID ANYTHING TO THIS EFFECT. MR. MANLEY SIMILARLY NEVER RAISED BAUXITE NATIONALISATION AS AN ISSUE IN THE ELECTIONS; AND IN FACT SINCE TAKING OVER THE GOVERNMENT, HAS BEEN GIVING ALL FOREIGN INVESTORS IN THE ISLAND THE UTMOST ASSURANCE OF THE PROTECTION OF THEIR INTERESTS, AND HAS IN FACT STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE OF STILL MORE FOREIGN CAPITAL ENTERING THE COUNTRY TO HELP TO FURTHER ITS DEVELOPMENT. THE PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS AND BEHAVIOUR OF NEITHER OF THE TWO POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS CAN THEREFORE BE SAID TO CONSORT WITH WHAT MR. DEROULET HAS CLAIMED.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION THAT ARISES FROM ALL THIS IS WHETHER PROBLEMS SUCH AS THESE STEM NATURALLY FROM THE FACT OF OUR BEING A SMALL COUNTRY EXISTING IN THE SHADOW OF A MAJOR POWER. WE DO

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NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS IS NECESSARILY THE CASE. WE ARE SURE THAT, WITHOUT EVEN CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITIES OF TOTALITARIAN REGIMENTATION, THERE ARE MEASURES WHICH CAN BE TAKEN TO INSULATE OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM FROM THE KIND OF EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE THAT MR. DEROULET ASSUMED HE WAS ENTITLED TO CARRY OUT, AND THAT MR. MANLEY FEARED.

WE MUST TRY TO OBTAIN A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE FORMS THAT SUCH INTERFERENCE HAS TAKEN OR IS LIKELY TO TAKE IN OUR PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES, AND TAKE MEASURES TO COMBAT IT. THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE A FURTHER IMPORTANT, AND INDEED, NECESSARY, STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY. OTHERWISE, IT IS BOTH OUR INDEPENDENCE AND OUR ASPIRATIONS FOR A DEMOCRATIC ORDER THAT WILL BE AT STAKE.

IN VIEW OF ALL THIS MR. MANLEY SHOULD, WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE DELAY, INITIATE A DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN WHICH MR. SHEARER WOULD NO DOUBT TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE HIS OWN POSITION CLEAR. THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON CERTAINLY SEEMS TO US TO OWE SOMETHING FAR MORE EXPLANATORY THAN THE BRIEF DENIAL RECORDED BY ITS SPOKESMAN ON THURSDAY. NOTHING LESS THAN A FULL STATEMENT FROM THIS QUARTER WILL DO. UNQUOTE.

SLATER UNQUOTE ROGERS

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